Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

At page 5, lines 23-29, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

A further aspect is a process for enhancing the reduction of serum lipid levels in a mammalian patient caused by administration of a cholesterol-lowering drug, which comprises administering to the patient an aliquot of the patient's own blood which has been treated ~~ex vivo~~ *ex vivo* with one or more stressors selected from an oxidative environment, thermal stress and UV light and administering to the patient a cholesterol-lowering drug.

At page 11, line 29, to page 12, line 15, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

A patient preferably undergoes a course of treatments of removal of a blood aliquot, treatment thereof as described above and re-administration of the treated blood to the patient, with the cholesterol-lowering drug being administered as separate doses during this course of treatments. Such a course may be a daily treatment for 4-6 days, followed by an interval and then a second course of daily treatments for 4-6 day. A preferred dosage regimen for the treated blood portion of the combination therapy is the administration of from 2-4 aliquots of autologous blood treated with stressors extracorporeally as described above, with the administration of any pair of consecutive aliquots being either on consecutive days, or being separated by a rest period of from 1-21 days on which no aliquots are administered to the patient, the rest period separating one selected pair of consecutive aliquots being from about 3-15 days. A more specific, preferred dosage regimen would be a total of three treatments and aliquots, with the first and second aliquots being administered on consecutive days and a rest period of 11 days being provided, between the administration of the second and third aliquots. The combination therapy of the invention may be useful in treatment of hypercholestolemia resulting from all of the various aforementioned causes.

At page 15, lines 19-29, please amend the paragraph to read as follows:

One of the hallmarks of atherosclerosis is the presence of systemic endothelial dysfunction, an abnormality which can be demonstrated in both involved and non-involved distributive arteries, and at the level of the resistance arterioles in the microcirculation. Endothelial dysfunction is probably the earliest event in the atherosclerotic process and can be demonstrated in the presence of most risk factors for atherosclerosis, including hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, hypertension and smoking, even before there is histological evidence of atherosclerosis. Thus studies which show significantly improved endothelial function in patients with atherosclerosis, for example, with the use of lipid lowering drugs and anti-oxidants, have been interpreted as indirect evidence of improvement of atherosclerosis.